

Fireflies in the Garden

By Robert Lee Frost

Here come real stars to fill the upper skies,
And here on earth come emulating flies,
That though they never equal stars in size,
(And they were never really stars at heart)
Achieve at times a very star-like start.
Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What kind of insect is this poem about?

- A) dragonflies
- B) fireflies
- C) grasshoppers
- D) ants

2. What does the poet compare and contrast fireflies with in this poem?

- A) stars
- B) planets
- C) comets
- D) planes

3. Read these lines from the poem:

And here on earth come emulating flies,
That though they never equal stars in size,
(And they were never really stars at heart)
Achieve at times a very star-like start.
Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.

What can you conclude from these lines?

- A) The fireflies cannot act like they are stars for very long.
- B) The fireflies do not want to be like stars.
- C) The fireflies are able to shine brightly like stars without ever stopping.
- D) The fireflies can grow to be the same size as stars.

4. Read these lines from the poem:

That though they never equal stars in size,
(And they were never really stars at heart)
Achieve at times a very star-like start.
Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.

Why might the poet have included the phrase “of course” in the last line?

- A) to show that the poet does not really know much about fireflies
- B) to show that the poet thought the fireflies would be able to sustain the part
- C) to show that the poet wishes that fireflies could sustain the part
- D) to show that the poet is not surprised that fireflies cannot sustain the part

5. What is the main idea of this poem?

- A) Although stars are larger in size, fireflies are more beautiful than stars.
- B) Fireflies live in the garden, while stars appear in the sky.
- C) Fireflies can seem very star-like, but only for a short time.
- D) Fireflies and stars are both interesting things to study.

6. Read these lines from the poem:

And here on earth come emulating flies,
That though they never equal stars in size,
(And they were never really stars at heart)
Achieve at times a very star-like start.

Why might the poet have chosen to use the word “achieve” in the last of these lines?

- A) to make it seem like fireflies do not want to look like stars
- B) to make it seem like fireflies sometimes look like stars by accident
- C) to make it seem like fireflies are very intelligent insects
- D) to make it seem like fireflies are trying and succeeding at looking like stars

7. What does the word “they” refer to throughout the poem?

- A) skies
- B) flies
- C) stars
- D) parts

8. What are two ways that the poet contrasts flies and stars in this poem?

9. In what way are flies similar to stars, based on the poem?

10. “Emulating” means imitating, or trying to be like something else. Why might the poet have called fireflies “emulating flies” in this poem? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

A Trip to Taughannock

By ReadWorks

Crunch, crunch, crunch. With each step she took, Eliza made a crunching sound on the stone path she was walking on. Her dad and brother, Kenyon, were far behind her. She always liked to run ahead. When she turned around to see if they were still there, they looked like little ants. They were at the bottom of the hill.

“Come on, slowpokes!” she yelled down to them. Her voice echoed through the trees that lined the trail.

Up ahead, she could see a wooden bench. She slowly jogged to the rest stop and plopped down on a bench. To her right, she noticed an information sign. “Taughannock Falls State Park,” it read in big block letters at the top. Eliza remembered having a hard time learning how to spell the tricky name. Her dad taught her how to pronounce it, “Tuh-ga-nick,” but spelling it wasn’t easy. Underneath the heading, there were a few paragraphs about the big waterfall at the end of trail. Eliza noticed it mentioned where the name “Taughannock” might have come from. It either referred to a Native American chief who used to live in the area, or a Native American word, “Taconic,” which means “in the trees.”

Eliza already knew plenty about the park, since her father often drove her and her brother there from their home in Ithaca, New York. It was only a ten-minute drive. Eliza loved going to the state park. She would try to explore new trails, or look for little frogs and lizards. She would collect stones she found pretty and add them to her collection back home.

“You know, Taughannock Falls is one of the highest waterfalls around here,” her dad said when he and Kenyon reached the bench where Eliza was sitting.

“We knowwww,” Eliza and Kenyon said at the same time. Every time they hiked in the park, their dad always told them the same facts.

“It’s even taller than Niagara Falls!” their dad said, laughing. He liked to tease them.

They continued on the trail, stopping every so often for Eliza to pick up an interesting-looking stone. After twenty minutes, they noticed a dry creek bed down off the path. The light tan stone reached far into the distance, and formed a smooth surface of rock.

Eliza noticed some small puddles in some areas. “Can we go dip our feet in the water?” she asked her dad. It was getting hot, and she wanted to cool down.

“Let’s go!” her dad said, and both Eliza and Kenyon went running down to the creek bed.

“You know, this used to be full of water,” their dad said while they peeled off their shoes. “But since this has been such a hot summer, the creek dried up.”

Eliza tried to picture the smooth stone covered in flowing water, full of small fish and stones. She dipped her toe in one puddle, but it was too warm. It was shallow, so the sun heated the water. She looked for another puddle, deeper this time.

“Come over here!” Kenyon called out. He was standing by a larger pool of water, and started to splash water on his arms and legs. “This one is cool!”

After the three enjoyed what was left of the creek, they pulled their shoes on and started back on the trail. They wanted to get to the big waterfall. After walking for a while, Eliza noticed a wooden bridge in the distance. “We’re almost there!” she called out.

She ran ahead, like usual, knowing that the bridge meant that they were close. Suddenly, she saw it. It looked like it stretched all the way up to the clouds. The water made a loud crashing noise as it hit the rocks at the bottom of the falls. It amazed her every time she saw it.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. Who is Eliza hiking with?

2. Where does the story take place?

3. Read these sentences from the text about the Taughannock waterfall.

"It looked like it stretched all the way up to the clouds."

What does this description suggest about the waterfall?

4. Why does Eliza love going to the state park?

5. What is the main idea of this story?

6. Read the sentences and answer the question.

"Her dad and brother, Kenyon, were far behind her. She always liked to run ahead. When she turned around to see if they were still there, they looked like little ants. They were at the bottom of the hill."

What does the author mean by the phrase "they looked like little ants"?

7. What word or phrase best completes the sentence?

It is getting hot, ____ Eliza dips her feet in the water to cool down.

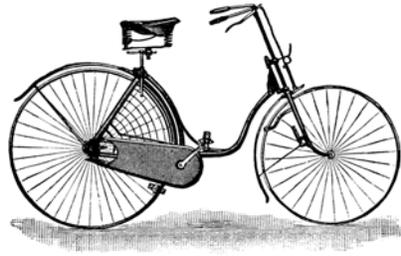
8. What is at the end of the trail Eliza and her family are hiking?

9. Describe the waterfall using two details from the story.

10. Why does Eliza feel amazed when she sees the waterfall? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

Fixing My Sister's Bike

Kyria Abrahams



I love to fix things. I'm only eight years old, but I can figure lots of stuff out by myself. I want to be a scientist when I grow up.

Last week, the red, shiny reflector came off my sister's bicycle seat. My sister Ariel said she wanted to take it to the bicycle repair shop to be fixed.

"No way!" I stopped her. "I know how to fix things, so I'll fix this too!"

"Well, it had better work!" Ariel said. She looked like she didn't believe me.

I got some rope from the closet, and I tied the reflector right back onto the bike. It dangled a little bit, but it still worked just fine.

"It looks messy," Ariel said.

When my dad came home, I showed him how I had fixed the bike.

"Do you think that's the best solution?" he asked me.

I looked over at the reflector. On second glance, it didn't look that secure after all. There were some pieces of rope hanging off.

I shrugged.

"Yes! It's fine!" I said.

I thought it was the best solution. I had come up with it, after all, so it had to be the best.

"Okay," he said. "Let's see how long it stays attached to the bike."

My dad said he was proud of me for taking initiative. That means I see something that needs to be fixed and do it without being told!

"I think I have a new lesson for you, though," Dad said. "I want to show you how to conduct an experiment."

I had come up with a solution to a problem, and now the second step was to test it under different conditions.

I asked my sister when she was planning to go for a bike ride. She said at 2:00 p.m.

I grabbed a pen and a piece of paper and made two columns on the paper. One column said GOOD, and one column said BAD. At 2:00, I went outside to watch her ride.

First, she rode down the sidewalk and the reflector stayed on. I made a checkmark in the GOOD column.

Next, she went over a bump and the reflector stayed on. I made another checkmark. Good again!

Then, she rode underneath a tree. *Uh oh!* I knew what was coming next.

One of the branches from the tree swept across the back of her bike, and the next thing I knew the whole reflector was untied and on the ground!

Ariel cried out, "My reflector!"

I made another checkmark, this time in the column that said BAD.

"Back to the drawing board!" I said.

"Grrr!" said Ariel.

Later that night, my dad and I sat down with my paper to look at the checkmarks.

"Under what conditions did the reflector stay on the bike?" he asked me.

I looked. "Well, it stayed on when the bike was riding normally, but it fell off when it was hit by that tree branch."

“What you have on that sheet of paper is called *scientific data*,” Dad said. “What do you think you can learn from this?”

“I don’t think the rope worked very well,” I said.

“I don’t think so, either,” he said. “But you did have to test it first to be sure.”

“Well, I tested it and now I know.”

“What will hold the reflector on a little bit better?”

“Let’s use glue!” I said.

We went downstairs, where the family keeps all our tools. Dad pulled the bike up onto the bench and took out the Super Glue.

I’m not allowed to use strong glue by myself. So we did this part together.

We let the glue dry overnight, and the next day I conducted my experiment all over again.

“You’re not going to break my reflector again, are you?” my sister asked. She looked a little mad and suspicious.

“Well, I don’t think so,” I told her. “But that’s what this experiment is for. Do you trust me?”

“I guess so,” Ariel said. “But mainly because Dad helped this time!” She stuck her tongue out at me.

I made her ride the bike exactly the same way she had the last time so that we could try to recreate the conditions. This is important in a scientific experiment.

She rode down the sidewalk. The reflector stayed on. So far, so good!

Then, I had her go over the bump again. The reflector stayed on. I made another checkmark. But now it was time for the final test.

“Okay, get ready!” I yelled. “It’s time to ride under the tree!”

Just like last time, my sister rode under the tree. However, this time, the reflector stayed on the bike.

“Yay! It didn’t fall off!” Ariel squealed happily.

I was pretty proud myself. I made a great big checkmark in the GOOD column, and then drew a smiley face just for fun.

I turned around to see that my dad had been watching the entire time.

“Excellent work, little scientist,” he said. “You recreated the experiment and found the solution to your sister’s bike problem.”

“And I saved us a trip to the bike shop!” I said.

“You sure did,” Ariel said. And then she gave me a great big hug.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What keeps falling off Ariel's bicycle?

- A the front wheel
- B the back wheel
- C the reflector
- D the seat

2. The narrator is the person who is telling the story. In this story, the narrator is Ariel's sibling. How does the narrator finally solve the problem of the reflector falling off Ariel's bike?

- A by taking Ariel's bike to a repair shop
- B by tying the reflector on with some rope from a closet
- C by asking their dad to fix the reflector by himself
- D by gluing the reflector on with help from their dad

3. Rope does not keep the reflector on the bike as well as glue does.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A Ariel's father helps to glue the reflector onto the bike after the reflector falls off a second time.
- B After the reflector is tied onto the bike with rope, it stays on when Ariel rides down the sidewalk.
- C After the reflector is tied onto the bike with rope, it stays on when Ariel rides over a bump.
- D The reflector falls off after being tied onto the bike, but it does not fall off after being glued on.

4. Why does Ariel give the narrator a hug at the end of the story?

- A Ariel is upset about how long it has taken to fix the bike.
- B Ariel is happy that the narrator has fixed the bike.
- C Ariel is excited to take her bike to a repair shop.
- D Ariel is confused because she does not understand how the narrator fixed the bike.

5. What is this story mainly about?

- A two siblings who do not get along until their dad makes them be nice to each other
- B a bike that is unsafe to ride because it is falling apart
- C a problem with a bike and what the narrator does to solve it
- D a girl whose bike breaks and what happens when she takes it to a repair shop

6. Read the following sentence: "Last week, the red, shiny **reflector** came off my sister's bicycle seat."

What does the word "**reflector**" mean?

- A a wheel that turns very slowly
- B something that shines when light hits it
- C a type of metal that is worth a lot of money
- D a safety pad that someone riding a bicycle wears

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The narrator tries fixing the reflector with glue _____ rope does not work.

- A after
- B although
- C before
- D so

8. What causes the reflector to fall off Ariel's bike after it has been tied on with rope?

9. What are the three bike riding conditions that the narrator has Ariel recreate after gluing the reflector on Ariel's bike?

10. Why is recreating these conditions important to the narrator's experiment?

How to Have an Adventure



To have an adventure, first you need to have a dog. You also need to have a small backpack, some juice, and a sandwich, in case your adventure makes you hungry. Although you don't need a map, a route, or a plan—it's best to have no plan at all, in fact—it's never a bad idea to have a goal. For instance, you could want to know what happens to the golf balls that are collected from the sand traps each evening. Or you may wish to learn what it's like to play on the school playground when no one else is there. Or you might want to find out which Mexican restaurant in town sells the best taco. (If you are trying to have this adventure, you will not need a sandwich.)

Kurt had a backpack, juice and a sandwich. He had the best dog in the world, a sad-eyed bulldog named Roscoe. And he had a goal. Having already solved the mysteries of the missing golf balls, the empty playground, and the taco tasting, he had something far more adventurous in mind for this sweltering summer Sunday. With Roscoe at his side, Kurt was going to venture where no boy had gone before. He was going to answer questions that no one but he dared ask. He was going to confront the bees.

Ever since his family moved to town, Kurt had wondered where the honey came from. In their last town, Kurt's mother bought honey at the store in a little plastic bear, the same as everyone else. But since the big move—that's what Kurt's dad always called it, “the big move”—their honey came in a jar, with a crooked label that had obviously been applied by hand. “Hilltop Hives,” it said. “Locally Made, Locally Eaten.”

“How local is this honey?” he asked his mom the night before, as he spread it on a biscuit.

“Pretty local,” she said. “The woman who makes it lives somewhere in town.”

“On a hill?”

“Yep. The one behind the movie theater.”

That was all Kurt needed. He had his plan.

The hill behind the movie theater was not a big one. It was easy to walk up it if you took the main road—you could even ride your bike—but nobody ever had an adventure by walking on roads. While the usher wasn't looking, Kurt and Roscoe walked around the back of the movie theater, where the dumpsters were: a concrete corner littered with broken glass and empty soda cans.

“The guys who work here must drink a lot of soda,” said Kurt. “But if they work at a movie theater, how come they don't just get big fountain drinks for free?” He wrote this question down in his notebook, to be answered on a future adventure. He helped Roscoe over the wall—the old dog didn't climb as well as he used to—and heaved himself after. The concrete scratched his palms a little, but Kurt did not worry about it. An adventurer fears no pain.

As they scrambled up the hill face, Kurt sweated and Roscoe panted. Halfway up, they paused for a juice break. “On an adventure,” Kurt reminded Roscoe, “it's vital to stay hydrated.” The dog panted in agreement as he sipped his juice. “Okay, buddy,” said Kurt as he wiped the juice from his chin. “Onward!” They went onward together, stepping over gnarled tree roots and under low-hanging branches, until they reached the top. Kurt peered over the edge of the hill, to make sure nothing dangerous lay ahead. It was then that he saw the alien.

“Oh, wow,” he said.

The creature wore a bulky white spacesuit, with a screen on the helmet that obscured its face. It held a wheezing brown weapon, which sprayed smoke all around.

“That is a pretty freaky alien,” Kurt said. “And probably really dangerous. Let's go see.”

Kurt swallowed his fear, and a little more juice, as he approached the creature. Intent on whatever it was doing with the smoke-weapon, the alien did not turn around. Kurt was very close to it now. The alien didn't see him—it wasn't too late to turn around. He sweated, from fear instead of heat, and decided it would be safer to run away. He was about to turn around when Roscoe chimed in.

“Bark!” said Roscoe. “Bark bark bark.”

The alien whirled around. It definitely saw them now. The alien grabbed Kurt's hand and pulled him back towards the hill. Roscoe followed, because that is what dogs do. Kurt screamed, but only a little. A good adventurer never loses his cool.

“What are you doing here?” said the alien.

“Having an adventure!” said Kurt.

A strange sound came from behind the alien's mask, a throaty rippling sound, like gift wrap being ripped. The alien, Kurt realized, was laughing. It raised its hands to the helmet, and lifted the mask.

“Welcome to Hilltop Hives,” said the alien, who was—Kurt now saw—not an alien at all. It was a lady, with short brown hair and crinkles around her smile. “I’m Brenda. I’m sorry for grabbing your wrist like that. But bees can be very dangerous if you’re allergic.”

“I’m not allergic to anything, and I’m not afraid of anything.”

“What about him?” she said, pointing at Roscoe.

“He’s not afraid of anything except for thunder.”

“Well then. Want to meet the bees?”

First, Brenda gave Kurt a bee-suit of his own—with heavy canvas gloves and a helmet just like hers, with a screen that let in light but kept out bees. It was hot in the suit, but he liked being hot better than being stung. Once he was outfitted, they approached the hives. There were six of them, each taller than Kurt, with boxes and boxes piled on top of each other. Brenda explained to Kurt that she takes care of the hives and protects them so that the bees have a safe place to make their honey.

“Each one of those is full of bees?” asked Kurt.

“Yep,” she said. “Tens of thousands.”

“Wow. You have more pets than anyone I know.”

She opened one of the hives, moving very slowly, so as not to upset the creatures inside.

Within the box were eight slats, each covered in honeycomb, and full of swiveling, swarming, wagging bees. Kurt's eyes went wide as she explained to him how the bees worked, how they lived and died, and how every moment of their life was spent making honey in service of their queen.

“What do they make the honey out of?” he asked.

“Pollen,” she said. “From flowers.”

“Where do they get the flowers?”

“Everywhere! I grow flowers all around the hill, without using any harmful chemicals that can kill the bees. But the bees don’t just use the flowers on the hill here. They fly up to five miles each day to find new flowers, then come home and tell the other bees about it, using a special kind of dance.”

“You’re joking.”

“I never joke about honey.”

Kurt peered closely at a cluster of quivering bees. It did look a little bit like they were dancing.

“Five miles,” he said. “There's a lot you can see in five miles.”

“No kidding,” she said. “For bees, every day is an adventure.”

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where do Kurt and Roscoe go on their adventure?

- A inside a movie theater
- B a planet in outer space
- C the emergency room of a hospital
- D a hill with lots of bees

2. What is the plot of this story?

- A An alien comes to earth, hides on the top of a hill, and kidnaps a boy.
- B A boy goes on an adventure to Hilltop Hives and meets the bees there.
- C A dog gets lost, a boy goes looking for it, and he finds it in a Mexican restaurant.
- D A woman puts on a bee-suit, decides to take off the helmet, and gets stung.

3. Read this sentence from the story: "For bees, every day is an adventure."

What evidence from the story supports this statement?

- A The hives that Kurt sees are taller than he is.
- B The honey that Kurt's family eats comes from Hilltop Hives.
- C Kurt sees a creature with a wheezing brown weapon that sprays smoke.
- D Bees fly up to five miles every day to find new flowers.

4. Why does Kurt think Brenda is an alien when he first sees her?

- A Brenda has short brown hair and crinkles around her smile.
- B As Kurt is about to turn around and run away after climbing the hill, Roscoe barks.
- C Brenda is wearing something that looks like a white space suit with a helmet hiding her face.
- D Brenda explains to Kurt how bees work, how they live and die, and how they spend their lives making honey.

5. What is a theme of this story?

- A the dangers of talking to people you do not know
- B the harmful effects that pollution has on animals
- C the excitement of having an adventure
- D the fun of growing up and becoming an adult

6. Read the following sentence: "Kurt **swallowed his fear**, and a little more juice, as he approached the creature."

What does it mean that Kurt **swallowed his fear**?

- A Kurt kept his fear under control
- B Kurt touched his throat with one hand
- C Kurt was too afraid to keep going
- D Kurt screamed for help

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Kurt wants to find the bees; _____, he does.

- A however
- B particularly
- C initially
- D ultimately

8. According to the story, what do you need to have an adventure?

9. What is an example of an adventure that Kurt went on before his adventure at Hilltop Hives?

10. Based on the story, what does it mean to have an adventure? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.
